

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SSM-03 IO-13 /123 W
-----102517 141523Z /50

O 141450Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1915
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3456

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US
SUBJECT: AMOCO INCIDENT

REF: STATE 063798

1. AS I WAS LEAVING A MEETING THIS MORNING WHICH I HAD WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN, HE ASKED "WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS ABOUT THESE BUOYS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ--WHY DON'T BRUCE (COL. WILLIAMS) AND ILAN (COL. TEHILA) GET TOGETHER AND STRAIGHTEN THIS WHOLE MESS OUT." TEHILA ADDED, "THERE ARE SEVEN BUOYS ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE." FORTUNATELY, WEIZMAN AND HIS AIDE WERE RUSHING TO A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER SO WE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN THE GULF. I HAD NOT INFORMED THE ISRAELIS OF THE SUGGESTION IN STATE 63387.

2. THE GOI IS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK OF MARCH 11 AND WITH THE PREPARATIONS FOR A PROBABLY RETALIATORY STRIKE. WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS, HOWEVER, I EXPECT THEIR THOUGHTS TO
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TURN AGAIN TO THE SUEZ MATTER AND TO RAISE IT WITH US. I DO NOT INTEND TO INITIATE ANY DISCUSSIONS ON THE MATTER IN THE MEANWHILE. BASED ON THE SITUATION AS I UNDERSTAND IT FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND CAIRO, MY RESPONSE TO ANY ISRAELI-INITIATED DISCUSSION WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:
--THE AMOCO RIG IS NOW CONDUCTING DRILLING

OPERATIONS. AMOCO REMAINS CONVINCED THAT IT IS LOCATED TO THE WEST OF THE MEDIAN LINE, EVEN AS DEFINED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY COMMANDER ON THE SPOT. DRILLING OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME.

--WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE RIG AND ITS WORK BOATS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR WORK AND ASSUME THAT THE GOI IS SATISFIED THAT AMOCO IS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH.

--WE HAVE NEVERTHELESS RECEIVED A DISTURBING REPORT THAT CERTAIN HARASSING OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE WORK BOAT CREWS WHEN THEY WERE PUTTING OUT ANCHORS. AMOCO STATES THAT THE RIG SHORTENED ITS CHAINS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE ANCHORS AND BUOYS.

--WE TRUST THAT NO ISRAELI ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIG OR ITS ANCILARY EQUIPMENT. THERE ARE 40 AMERICANS ABOARD THE RIG AND IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY OVER HAPPENINGS IN THE GULF DISTRACTED THE US AND ISRAEL FROM THE VERY IMPORTANT TASK WE HAVE BEFORE US.

3. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU CONCUR IN THIS APPROACH AND PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF THE SITUATION IN THE GULF AS SEEN BY AMOCO.
VIETS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, TERRITORIAL WATERS, PETROLEUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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